

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present After-Final Amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application and does not require further search.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1 and 7-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, and 8, which are independent, have been amended. Claims 2-6 were previously canceled. Claims 9-15 are hereby added. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically at page 29. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,298,446 to Schreiber et al.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*:

“...contents obtaining unit for obtaining contents and rights information **including a control flag which indicates the permitted operations regarding the contents;**
setting unit for setting an icon corresponding to the control flag from different forms of icons **representative of said permitted operations...**” (Emphasis Added)

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,298,446 to Schreiber et al. (hereinafter merely "Schreiber") relates to copyright protection of original data and provides a method for enabling a user to view protected image data without being able to copy it.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in the cited portions of Schreiber that would disclose or suggest a contents obtaining unit for obtaining contents and rights information including a control flag which indicates the permitted operations regarding the contents and a setting unit for setting an icon corresponding to the control flag from different forms of icons representative of said permitted operations, as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to or somewhat similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, amended independent claims 7 and 8 are also believed to be patentable.

Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the above-identified reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner

specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

Applicants submit that this After-Final Amendment does not require further search and that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of this After-Final Amendment and early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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